

The background image is a collage. The top right shows a man from the side, wearing a blue baseball cap with a red light, a blue long-sleeved shirt, and a dark vest. He is pointing his right hand towards a wall inside a house. The interior of the house appears to be under renovation or inspection, with exposed wooden framing and insulation visible. The bottom left shows a white Isuzu truck parked on a grassy area next to a house with a red door. The truck's rear door is open, and a blue ladder is extended from the back. The truck has 'ISUZU' on the front and '50S0454' on the license plate. A large blue diagonal overlay covers the middle of the image, containing the title text.

Weatherization Assistance Program

Annual Report
Program Year 2022
April 2022 – March 2023



What is WAP?

Delaware's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provides services at no cost to qualified low-income Delaware families to reduce energy costs. Typical services include air-sealing, insulation, heating system repair, lighting upgrades and minor health and safety repairs that are necessary to complete energy-saving measures.

WAP began more than 40 years ago with minor services like caulking and weather stripping. Now, WAP services are provided by highly trained contractors and are guided by sophisticated diagnostics, including blower-door testing, mechanical ventilation strategies and combustion analysis. Those diagnostics, typically completed before and after home weatherization, ensure that energy-saving measures are cost-effective.

More important are the energy savings and other benefits that low-income Delawareans gain from these services. WAP provides long-term savings for Delaware's vulnerable households. Those savings are estimated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to be \$372 per home per year. Energy improvements also can reduce health risks and improve comfortability. Those benefits help low-income families by reducing medical expenses, lost work days for parents and out of school days for children.

We regularly test home's heating systems to see how efficient they are.



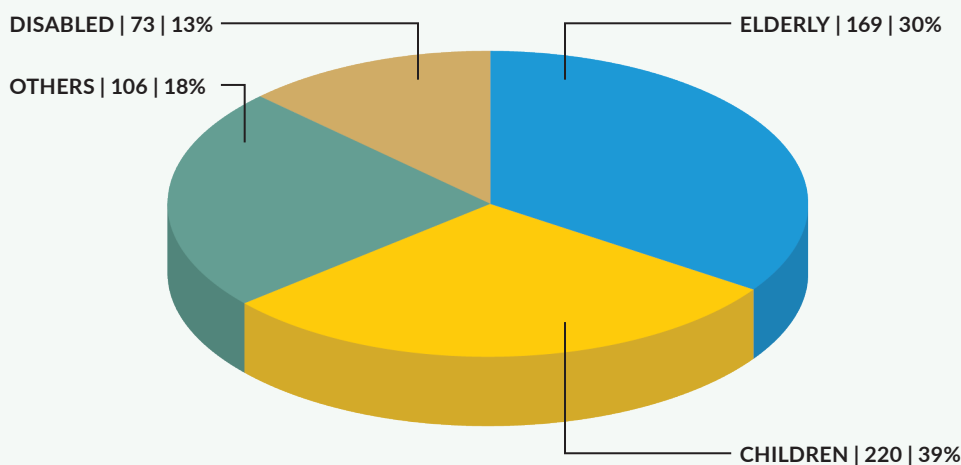
Who is Served?

WAP serves low-income Delaware residents, defined as those with annual incomes verified at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. WAP serves all types of housing including detached or attached single-family, mobile or manufactured homes and small multi-family buildings. Services are available to owners and renters, provided the building owner consents and the benefits of weatherization go to low-income residents.

In Program Year (PY) 2022, there were sufficient resources to serve all eligible households, and there was only a relatively short waiting list of eligible households.

In PY 2022, WAP served 278 households with a total of 568 of Delaware's most vulnerable residents. Prioritization of weatherizing homes is based on need, as well as age (young and elderly), and special needs of residents.

Delaware's Most Vulnerable Residents Assisted by WAP, PY 2022



Our Weatherization Installers, Energy Auditors, and Quality Control Inspectors are some of the most credentialed local tradespersons in the industry.



Program Year 2022 Highlights

- Funneled 73 WAP clients to the Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Solar program, 18 of which have already agreed to participate.
- Created a bi-lingual brochure for English and Spanish-speaking Delawareans.
- Conducted outreach events across the state, including schools, churches, teen centers, and public facilities.
- Completed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law application for an additional \$10 million.
- Worked with U.S. DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory to survey our contribution to low-income solar installation.
- Collaborated with multiple consultants to develop an outreach plan.
- Attended Justice40 Week hosted by U.S. DOE to expand our efforts in reaching disadvantaged and under-served communities.
- Contributed to the I-ADAPT project by the Division of Watershed Stewardship, showing the impact that our program can have on mitigating flood hazards for clients.
- Began partnership with the Division of Public Health to address Lead Hazards in low-income homes.

I've dealt with a lot of different programs, but this one really showed a lot of respect for me and my house. I'm so happy with the work that was done.

— WAP Client, Frederica

I was not expecting how much work needed to be done to seal my home. I've been dealing with a drafty home for years.

— WAP Client, Bear

Sources and Uses of WAP Funds

Delaware WAP is funded by four sources. In PY 2022, funds utilized to weatherize units totaled \$2,692,422.

Spending by Source

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)	\$ 531,971
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)	\$ 584,889
Ratepayer Utility (Delmarva Power)	\$ 734,971
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	\$ 840,591
	<u>\$ 2,692,422</u>



Delaware's HVAC technicians are working across the state.

Blower door tests allow us to measure how much air is leaking from the home. It is how we know the amount of energy we save in each home weatherized.



Looking Forward

- Our application for the \$10 million Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to bolster the Weatherization Assistance Program will allow us to launch new projects and expand our current efforts in the program:
 - Pool funds for leveraging that will allow us to partner with other agencies that work in similar fields, so that we can provide a more holistic approach to weatherization.
 - Research the potential for a Cool Roofing program by creating a heat map of the state and paying for a heat-reducing rooftop in high heat-risk areas.
 - Pioneer the way in weatherizing multi-family high-rises.
 - Strengthen the workforce of the weatherizing career industry by providing new trainings for existing workers and attracting more workers into the field.
 - Improve the health and safety of the WAP clients and workers by increasing the funds available to make the home a safe environment.
- Increasingly more clients are interested in receiving solar panels on their home. We expect that the number of low-income applicants to the LMI Solar Pilot Program will at least double in the next year.
- U.S. DOE is giving states another round of Weatherization Readiness funds. These funds are dedicated to preventing a home from being deferred. With this increase in funding, we will see a decrease in the percent of homes deferred each year.
- After working with the Division of Watershed Stewardship's I-ADAPT project and the Division of Public Health's Lead Hazards grant, we are looking forward to seeing the outcomes of these collaborative efforts that will demonstrate the program's capabilities. We continue to seek out additional partnerships that will bring more comprehensive services to our clients and promote the program to more eligible Delawareans.

Spotlight on Energy Savings

Our WAP client is a disabled elderly man, living with his wife in a 1990's manufactured home with 884 square feet in Northern Delaware. The client used a 30-year-old furnace for heating the home that kept going out. He was very uncomfortable in the home and was seeking lower utility bills and improved comfort. However, once our work began, the client was surprised at just how many ways his home could be made more efficient.

Project Metrics

- Project cost of \$11,225
- Savings of 9,495 kilowatt hours (kWh) annually
- Annual energy cost savings of \$1,540
- Savings to Investment Ratio of 1.7
- Significant improvements in comfort and health

Weatherization Measures

- Replace 30-year-old furnace
- Mobile home ground barrier
- Belly insulation
- HVAC duct insulation
- Pipe wrap
- Air seal building
- Seal heating registers and ducts
- Bathroom ventilation

The client was impressed by the program's quality control being held to such high standards, noting that the inspector came to the home on three separate occasions to ensure that the crew could see in-person how to correct the home's issues. He showed great appreciation that he was being dealt with respectfully and "not just another client." His case is just one of many examples of the great work the program delivers.



The Delaware Weatherization Assistance Program specializes in modular, and mobile home weatherization. The program trains its employees on real homes in the state using the nation's best specialty trainers. We pride ourselves with the ability to work on any home or apartment in Delaware.

Contact Us



Visit de.gov/wap

State of Delaware
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy

For more information, call us at 302-735-3480.